

Remarks

Claims 108-127 are pending, and claims 108-127 stand finally rejected. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request allowance of claims 108-127.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection

The Examiner rejected claims 108-127 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 in view of U.S. Patent number 5,483,589 (Ishida). We submit that claim 108 is new and non-obvious in view of Ishida.

Claim 108 describes “a call processing control system coupled to the signaling processors and configured to receive call processing data and update the call processing tables in the signaling processors based on the call processing data.” The Examiner does not provide a cite to Ishida or any other reference that teaches the call processing control system as claimed in claim 108. The Examiner merely states that it is inherent that the table must be updated. The novelty of claim 108 is not that call processing tables are updated, the novelty is how the call processing tables in signaling processors are updated. Traditionally, call processing tables in switches were updated individually by having a highly-skilled technician reprogram the individual switch and update the table. There is no prior art of record that teaches a centralized system that updates the call processing tables in multiple signaling processors as described in claim 108. Updating the call processing tables in multiple signaling processors as in claim 108 is cheaper, faster, allows more control over call routing, and provides some symmetry between the signaling processors.

Based on the above remarks, we submit that claim 108 is new and non-obvious in view of Ishida. Claim 118 is new and non-obvious for similar reasons. The dependent claims are new and non-obvious as being dependent on a new and non-obvious independent claim. There may be additional reasons in support of patentability, but that such reasons are moot in light of the above remarks and are omitted in the interests of brevity.

Final Rejection; When Proper on Second Action

We believe that the finality of this Office action is improper under MPEP § 706.07(a), and we ask the Examiner to reconsider the finality. In a first office action on May 23, 2002, the Examiner set forth a 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection and a 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejection under Christie. In a second office action, which was made final, the Examiner set forth a 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejection under U.S. patent 5,483,589 (Ishida). Ishida was neither cited by the Applicants in an

IDS, nor cited by the Examiner in the first office action. Therefore, the Examiner introduced a new rejection in the second office action and made the action final. By making the second office action final on a new rejection, the Examiner has denied us the opportunity to respond to the new rejection. Further, the amendments to the claims did not necessitate a new ground of rejection because the features in new claim 108 were searched and examined in the first office action.

After Final Amendments

If the Examiner does not remove the finality of the second office action, we ask the Examiner to still enter the amendments to the claims. Under 37 CFR § 1.116, the Applicants may make amendments after a final rejection. The Applicants have amended claim 108 to correct a grammatical error. The amendment to claim 108 was not previously made because this was the first instance that the error was discovered.

Conclusion

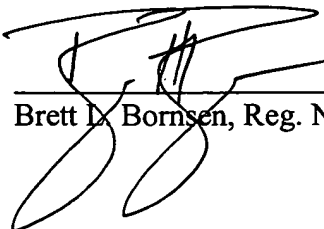
Because Ishida, and its inherent features, do not teach that which is claimed in claim 108, the Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 108-127. Any fees in addition to those submitted may be charged to deposit account 21-0765.

Respectfully submitted,

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Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

In the Claims

The following represent marked-up versions of the amendments made to the claims. All of the claims are presented, amended or not, in order to avoid confusion in the event of future prosecution.

108. (Amended) A communication system, comprising:

a plurality of signaling processors, wherein each of the signaling processors includes a call processing table and each of the signaling processors is configured to receive signaling, process the signaling based on the call processing table to select an identifier for routing a call, and transmit a control message identifying the selected identifier;

a plurality of connection systems configured to receive user communications for calls, receive control messages that include [identifies] identifiers for routing the calls, and interwork the user communications based on the identifiers in the control messages; and

a call processing control system coupled to the signaling processors and configured to receive call processing data and update the call processing tables in the signaling processors based on the call processing data.

109. (New) The communication system of claim 108 wherein the call processing control system comprises:

a human machine interface configured to provide an interface for an operator to enter the call processing data to adjust the call processing tables.

110. (New) The communication system of claim 109 wherein the call processing control system comprises:

a user security configuration system configured to allow selected operators to enter the call processing data to update the call processing tables.

111. (New) The communication system of claim 108 wherein the call processing control system receives the call processing data from an operations center.

112. (New) The communication system of claim 108 wherein the call processing control system comprises:

a regional craft view system configured to allow an operations center to view configurations of the signaling processors.

113. (New) The communication system of claim 108 wherein the call processing tables include a called number table.

114. (New) The communication system of claim 108 wherein the call processing tables include a routing table.

115. (New) The communication system of claim 108 wherein the call processing tables include an automatic number identification table.

116. (New) The communication system of claim 108 wherein the connection systems are configured to interwork the user communications between non-asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) connections and asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) connections based on the identifiers in the control messages.

117. (New) The communication system of claim 108 wherein the connection systems are configured to interwork the user communications between time division multiplexed (TDM) connections and asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) connections based on the identifiers in the control messages.

118. (New) A method of operating a communication system comprising a plurality of signaling processors, a plurality of connection systems, and a call processing control system, the method comprising:

in each of the signaling processors, receiving signaling, processing the signaling based on a call processing table to select an identifier for routing a call, and transmitting a control message identifying the selected identifier;

in the plurality of connection systems, receiving user communications for calls, receiving control messages that include identifiers for routing the calls, and interworking the user communications based on the identifiers in the control messages; and

in the call processing control system, receiving call processing data and updating the call processing tables in the signaling processors based on the call processing data.

119. (New) The method of claim 118 wherein the call processing control system further comprises a human machine interface, the method further comprising:

in the human machine interface, providing an interface for an operator to enter the call processing data to adjust the call processing tables.

120. (New) The method of claim 119 wherein the call processing control system further comprises a user security configuration system, the method further comprising:

in the user security configuration system, allowing selected operators to enter the call processing data to update the call processing tables.

121. (New) The method of claim 118 wherein receiving the call processing data comprises: receiving the call processing data from an operations center.

122. (New) The method of claim 118 wherein the call processing system further comprises a regional craft view system, the method further comprising:

in the regional craft view system, allowing an operations center to view configurations of the signaling processors.

123. (New) The method of claim 118 wherein the call processing tables include a called number table.

124. (New) The method of claim 118 wherein the call processing tables include a routing table.

125. (New) The method of claim 118 wherein the call processing tables include an automatic number identification table.

126. (New) The method of claim 118 wherein interworking the user communications comprises:

interworking the user communications between non-asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) connections and asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) connections based on the identifiers in the control messages.

127. (New) The method of claim 118 wherein interworking the user communications comprises:

interworking the user communications between time division multiplexed (TDM) connections and asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) connections based on the identifiers in the control messages.